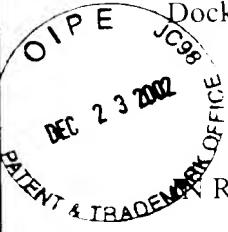


Docket No.: 209870US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE APPLICATION OF

MIKHAIL M. GUSYATINER, ET AL. : EXAMINER: LILLING, H. J.

SERIAL NO: 09/886,254 :

FILED: JUNE 22, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1651

FOR: L-ARGININE PRODUCING ESCHERICHIA COLI AND METHOD OF
PRODUCING L-ARGININEAMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATIONASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated July 25, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy to read as follows:

7. (Amended) An isolated *Escherichia coli*, which has an ability to produce and accumulate arginine in a medium when the bacterium is cultivated in the medium, and which is modified to have an enhanced ability to utilize acetate, whereby the ability to produce arginine is enhanced compared to the unmodified bacterium.

8. (Amended) The isolated *Escherichia coli* according to claim 7, wherein the bacterium has an ability to produce and accumulate arginine in a medium when the bacterium is cultivated in the medium, and which forms a colony within 2 days at 37°C when the